Steps to prevent swine flu

218. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of patients who have been tested positive for H1N1 virus in the country, State-wise, city-wise; and

(b) the steps taken/being taken by Government to tackle the situation to treat the patients and prevent the spread of H1N1 virus flu?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) As on 30th June 2009, 109 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A H1N1 is reported in India. State-wise and City-Wise list is given in the Statement. [Refer to Statement appended to USQ 204 Pt. (a) to (e).].

(b) Government of India took a series of actions. A comprehensive plan including guidelines and standard operating procedures were put in place. Travel advisory was issued to defer non essential travel to the affected countries. Entry screening of passengers started at 22 international airports and five international checkpoints Community surveillance to detect clusters of influenza like illness is being done through Integrated Disease Surveillance Project. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune are testing clinical samples. Sixteen additional laboratories have also started testing. There is adequate quantity of Oseltamivir, the drugs and protective equipments. License has been issued to three Indian manufacturers for importing seed virus to manufacture flu vaccine. Short term media plan has been implemented. Travel advisory, do's and don'ts and other pertinent information has been widely published to alley fear and avoid panic. Media is kept informed on daily basis. The pandemic preparedness and response calls for actions in sectors beyond health. National Disaster Management Authority has issued guidelines for such actions. All States have been requested to gear up the State machinery and strengthen isolation facilities including critical care facilities at district level.

Government is fully geared up to deal with the situation.

Pictorial warning on cigarette packets

219. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has recently cleared for pictorial warnings on cigarette, beedi and other chewed tobacco products;

(b) if so, the details of the directive;